

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051970
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BONN: HANDLING AMALRIK'S VISIT DEFTLY

EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THAT SOVIET DISSIDENT ANDREI AMALRIK'S VISIT TO BONN HAS GONE WELL FOR ALL CONCERNED. AMALRIK MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER KOHL ON MARCH 3 AND WELCOMED HIS PARTY'S RECENT MOVES TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS. HE THEN MET WITH MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI, WHO FOUND HIM, ACCORDING TO A CHANCELLERY SOURCE, "MUCH MORE REASONABLE THAN THE PRESS HAD PICTURED HIM TO BE." NEITHER SCHMIDT NOR THE FOREIGN OFFICE, HOWEVER, PLANS TO RECEIVE HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 051970

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE FRG WANTED TO SHOW A PROPER CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE AVOIDING A SOVIET REACTION OR STRONG ATTACKS FROM THE OPPOSITION. SO FAR, IT BELIEVES IT HAS SUCCEEDED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BONN 4061, 3/7.

2. US NUCLEAR REVIEW COULD PUT UK IN QUANDARY

LONDON'S FINANCIAL TIMES CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE STORY

MARCH 8 SAYING THAT A SLOWDOWN OF US NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES WAS THREATENING TO CLOSE SOME OF EUROPE'S MOST ADVANCED NUCLEAR FACILITIES. THE ARTICLE QUOTED DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS DENYING THAT THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SLOWDOWN AND US PRESSURE ON BONN TO ABANDON ITS PLANS TO SELL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL, BUT SAID THE FRG IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUEL FROM BRITAIN. THE FOREIGN OFFICE TOLD EMBASSY LONDON THE REPORT OF GERMAN REQUESTS FOR FUEL WAS UNTRUE, BUT ADMITTED BEING DISTURBED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN BRITAIN'S EURATOM OBLIGATIONS TO GERMANY AND HER BILATERAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE US. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 3894, 3/8.

3. SOUTH AFRICA: MINORITIES COMPLICATE HOMELAND POLICY

EMBASSY PRETORIA REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A "CLARIFICATION" OF ITS HOMELAND POLICY WHICH MAY ACTUALLY COMPLICATE ITS IMPLEMENTATION. JOHANNESBURG BANTU AFFAIRS CHIEF DU RANDT REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT CITIZENSHIP IN THE NEWLY-INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI WOULD BE ASSIGNED NOT ONLY TO XHOSA TRIBESMEN BUT TO SOTHO WHO ARE "CULTURALLY OR OTHERWISE ASSOCIATED WITH IT." THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT IN ADDITION TO GIVING THE GOVERNMENT WIDE AUTHORITY FOR ARBITRARY DECISIONS ON CITIZENSHIP, THIS RULING MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO ANTICIPATE THE PROBLEM OF SUBSTANTIAL MINORITIES WITHIN THE TRIBAL HOMELANDS. THE SOTHO ARE AMONG THE MOST GEOGRAPHICALLY FRAGMENTED OF

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PAGE 03 STATE 051970

SOUTH AFRICA'S BANTU TRIBES, AND HAVE AGITATED AGAINST BOTH THEIR LACK OF A SINGLE, CONSOLIDATED HOMELAND AND THEIR INCLUSION AS MINORITIES IN THE HOMELANDS OF OTHER TRIBES.

ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY, THE DECISION BRINGS TO LIGHT AN INHERENT CONTRADICTION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HOMELAND POLICY: WHILE IT IS BASED ON THE THEORY THAT EACH ETHNIC GROUP SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ASSIGNING "NATIONALS" OF ONE, EN MASSE, TO CITIZENSHIP IN ANOTHER. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PRETORIA 1115, 3/8.

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